

FALL 2013

Choosing an Approved Trainer or Technical Consultant

If you are searching for training, make sure your hard work counts by working with approved trainers and technical consultants. You'll ensure your professional development dollars are well spent—your training will match YoungStar quality indicators, you will receive information that is correct and current, and you will be assured that your trainer or technical consultant is qualified and competent.

What does it mean for trainers and technical consultants to be "approved?"

It means their education and experience have been evaluated and approved by The Registry's Professional Development Approval System (PDAS). PDAS was created to give child care professionals a clearer idea of what kind of professional development they are receiving and to ensure accountability among those providing the professional development.

There are four different types of PDAS Approved Trainers—Basic, Intermediate, Master, and Specialist. A Registry Approved Consultant has been specifically trained to offer technical assistance, mentoring, coaching, and other types of consultation (<https://www.the-registry.org/PDAS/Consultants.aspx>).

How do you know if a trainer or technical consultant has been approved?

You can locate approved trainers and technical consultants by searching by name, Core Knowledge Area, or other criteria at: <https://www.the-registry.org/myregistry/>

Connecting the Dots: Get to Know Your Home Visiting Programs

As early childhood educators, you know the importance of supporting parents so that they can provide the most optimal environment for the healthy growth and development of their children. While quality early care and education dramatically increases the odds for children to be successful in school, parent education and support programs, such as home visiting, are also critical components that lead to healthier families and communities.

Home visiting is a voluntary program, offering supportive services to parents and their children during and after pregnancy.

Family Foundations Comprehensive Home Visiting (FFHV) programs use national program models that have proven their effectiveness, and trained staff – nurses, social workers, or early childhood specialists – regularly visit families in their homes. Visits may address a range of parent concerns including: prenatal care access, screenings and assessments of parent and child health/well-being, health and nutrition education, healthy parent-child relationships, helping parents better understand the needs of their developing child and connecting families to available community resources. For the FFHV programs, service typically

starts prenatally, and families remain in the programs for 2-3 years, depending on family needs.

Home visiting programs are assets to the community, not only because they support parents to develop skills and knowledge to be the kind of parents they want to be, but also because they help connect parents to resources, including child care. Developing relationships with home visiting programs in your community can be very valuable for your child care center. Because of the trusting relationships home visitors have with families, they are well-positioned to help parents understand how to select child care services that best meet their families' needs.

With some additional federal dollars secured this summer, DCF will expand its FFHV program to support 14 programs in 29 sites in high-risk communities across Wisconsin, including three programs in Milwaukee and five tribal programs. For more information about the state's FFHV program, visit the following website: http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/children/home_visiting_needs_assessment/default.htm



More Than Points and Stars for Leah Zastoupil

Most people, organizations, and businesses strive to provide quality services, and achieve the highest rating possible. The same is true for the child care business.

What motivates a child care provider to work toward earning more points and a higher star rating?

Leah Zastoupil of Zasty's Family Child Care has been motivated by her desire to be viewed as a quality program. Leah is currently a 4 Star family provider who hopes to earn 5 Stars by the end of this year. Recently, she has seen the value achieving each point has brought to her program.

Since joining YoungStar, Leah has been very determined to earn as many points as she can because she wanted her program to have a high rating. She began by doing what she needed to do

to earn each point.

Her focus was on getting to that next star level. Then, she began to see the value of understanding each point she earned.

For example, Leah knew child portfolios were a big task to take on, so she started small by doing individual child observations. Over time, she took the Wisconsin Model Early Learning Standards (WMELS) training as well as the Pyramid Model where she learned to be an "intentional" caregiver.

Then at Leah's last YoungStar visit she stated, "It all makes sense now! I'm seeing the difference out there (pointing to the child care environment) with children and with me—their teacher. I know that YoungStar is about making me a better teacher, it's not just about earning points."

4 Star Wisconsin Shares Reimbursement is Increasing to 10%

On December 29, 2013, 4 Star child care providers will see an increase in their YoungStar bonus from the current 5% to 10%.

All child care providers who receive a Wisconsin Shares subsidy reimbursement for children in their care must participate in YoungStar and receive a YoungStar quality rating. Tiered Reimbursement began in July 2012.

Wisconsin Budget Act 20 included a provision that would modify the payment level for a child care provider who receives a 4-star rating under YoungStar. It increased the tiered reimbursement YoungStar adjustment for 4 Star programs from 5% to 10%. The YoungStar bonus will be added beginning with attendance reported for the week of December 29, 2013 and will be seen on reimbursement checks in January 2014.

The more you know...

YoungStar Accepted Accreditations

YoungStar accepts the following accreditations as equivalent to a 5 Star rating:

- National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)
- Early Learning Leaders (formerly known as the National Accreditation Commission/NAC)
- City of Madison Group and School-Age Accreditation

YoungStar accepts the following accreditations as equivalent to a 4 Star rating:

- Council on Accreditation (COA)
- National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC)
- Satellite Family Child Care Accreditation (in the City of Madison)
- National Early Childhood Program Accreditation (NECPA)

When a program becomes accredited or extends/renews their accreditation, it is the responsibility of the program to send their certification/re-accreditation to the Department of Children and Families via fax: 608-224-6178 or via email to:

youngstar@wisconsin.gov

YoungStar cannot recognize a program as accredited until the certificate of accreditation/re-accreditation is received. The valid dates of the accreditation will be entered into the YoungStar system and the YoungStar rating and Wisconsin Shares payments will reflect the accredited status during that time period.

